

Extension exercises

Chapter 24: Ellipsis and substitution | Comments

Exploring English

Responses to questions 1–3 will naturally depend on your choice of materials and, in 4, on your choice of language.

There are striking similarities between ellipsis and substitution in English and in closely related languages. However, even in these there are also differences in which words can be left out and which are used as substitutes.

In languages which are less closely related, where for example clause structure and pronoun systems are radically different, there are very significant differences and very few similarities.

Course materials

Again, precise responses to these questions will naturally depend on your choice of materials.

- 1 It is often not easy – sometimes simply because it is not there.
- 2 It would be logical to deal with aspects of the topic under all or any of these categories. In fact, if attention is paid at all, it tends to be in the context of writing or intensive reading.
- 3 This tends to be dealt with explicitly at advanced levels, although we can (and often, perhaps, should) use materials to draw the attention of learners to this at much lower levels.
- 4 This varies not only according to the course, but also to the level. A range of aspects of this topic tends to be treated together only at advanced levels.
- 5 This varies considerably but learners are sometimes required to use, for example, ellipsis in sentence combining exercises (for example, to practice reduced relative clauses) before much attention has been paid to recognising and understanding these features.
- 6 This varies considerably.
- 7 On the whole, little attention is paid to this. For learners whose first language is similar to English in this respect, this may, however, be appropriate (particularly in the case of ellipsis).